

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV .. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable in our community. Throughout the country, people will now be able to turn to satellite TV to access their local news, weather and community information, in addition to a comprehensive package of national video programming. But just as exciting, the merger will bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access. These tremendous benefits to consumers won't happen without the merger. Satellite-delivered Internet service will bring an affordable and competitive alternative to cable modems and DSL to consumers in big cities, small towns and rural areas alike. This will give me a competitive choice for Internet access and will be especially advantageous to rural communities where cable modems and DSL are not likely to be available anytime in the near future.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.

**The above is a form letter, but I would like to add a little. I recently moved for the Dallas/Ft Worth area and it is a shame that I cannot get the same amount of service in Mississippi as I got in Dallas/Ft Worth simply because Direct TV has targeted the bigger markets and Dish Network must follow suit. We in Mississippi are willing to pay the same price, however the government has restricted them from giving me local networks.

The networks might be on board with this but I cannot believe that the advertisers are. Due to this fact and the fact that Cable believe they have the market cornered I will not watch local channels until they are available to me on my dish. The advertisers are losing any possibility to reach my household. What this merger will do is make Dish Network/Direct TV (what ever the name will be) on an equal playing field with Cable (Time Warner, etc.) and they nor the government want this.

There is a lot of revenue generated for both parties with the cable prices rises at least once a year if not more. The cable companies blame the government and the government blames the cable companies.

The fact that there are only two (2) major dish companies should not hinder my ability to get the service I am willing to pay for.

Please consider my views along with others in my community. I live in a ne

ighborhood that has 32 houses 29 are Dish Network customers, mainly because of prices and a service package that Direct TV does not have.

Sincerely,

Barry Wood
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